

1940

## Clarkson Community Church

Morgan Garlock Scrapbook

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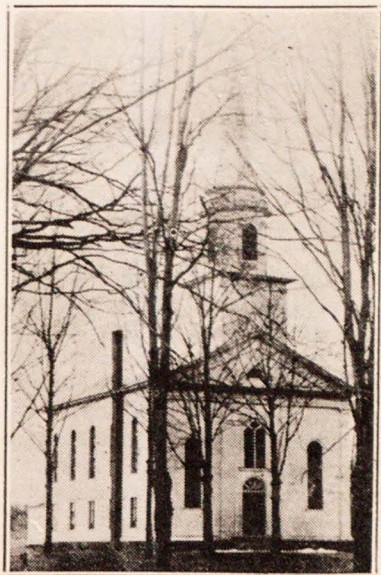
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*HISTORY OF*  
*CLARKSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*



CLARKSON COMMUNITY CHURCH  
As It Appears Today

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# CLARKSON CHURCH ORGANIZED IN 1816

Chartered April 8th

By MRS. ERNEST FOWLER

The Murray Congregational Church as it was called at first was organized in Murray at Murray's or Clarkson Corners at a council held, Wednesday, September 4, 1816 in the school-house which is now occupied by Louis Homuth.

At this council the following persons presented themselves for the purpose of being formed into a church: Joel Palmer, Theodore Ellis, Mary Perry, Polly Day, Phoebe Palmer, Patience Ellis, Ann Swift, John Phelps, Calvin Green, Mary McCracken, Desire Wheland, Laura White, Charlotte Cummings, Sally Reed and Betsy Phelps.

They were examined as to their religious experiences and doctrinal knowledge and gave satisfaction after agreeing to the confession of Faith and Covenant. The constituting prayer was made by Rev. W. Williams.

After the covenant was read and assented to by the members, it was voted that Joel Palmer be clerk of the church. The first deacons were Joel Palmer and Levi Smith. The by-laws were adopted at a meeting held at the school house in the Mattison settlement August 26, 1817.

At a meeting of the churches of Murray and Sandy Creek on Monday, February 1st, 1819, Moody Freeman

was chosen moderator and Joel Palmer, clerk. It was voted unanimously to give Rev. John Blish a call to be installed over both churches as pastor.

It was voted by the Congregational Church in Murray that it be the wish of said church to be connected with the Presbytery on the accommodating plan, by which it was understood that they lose none of their congregational rights and privileges. Deacon Joel Palmer was voted as delegate from this church to execute the written request. On the 10th day of February, 1819, Deacon Palmer attended the Presbytery at Ogden and presented the vote of the church to become connected on the accommodating plan and the church was received into connection with the Presbytery accordingly.

Services were conducted in the school house until the construction of the present church edifice in 1825, a substantial building 41 by 51 feet in size at a cost of \$3500. The bell was cast in 1846 and for many years, besides being used for church services, it was tolled by the sexton at the time of a person's death.

The church edifice was dedicated March 12, 1858. The sermon was by Rev. Hannibay of the Presbyterian Church of Brockport.



In 1839, the church sent a delegate to the Rochester Presbytery and adopted the Presbyterian form of government. In 1853 it again changed to the Congregational and became independent and so remained until 1869 when it once more united with and became a Presbyterian Church, remaining so until 1910 when through the efforts of Rev. Spanswick, it was again made Congregational.

Since the church was organized there have been thirty-seven pastors. They are as follows:

1816, Rev. Ezra Woodworth; 1817, Rev. W. Loring; 1819, Rev. John Blish; 1830, Rev. C. E. Furman; 1855, Rev. E. N. Toof; 1857, Rev. Joseph McNulty; 1863, Rev. C. B. Gardner; 1865, Rev. Francis Rae; 1866, Rev. Charles Kittridge; 1867, Rev. N. M. Clute; 1873, Rev. A. A. Graley; 1879, Rev. Elizah Bonney; 1882, Rev. Jas. Pierpont; 1883, Rev. N. B. Knapp; 1885, Rev. Collin; 1889, Rev. John Reid.

1890, Rev. Jonathan Wadhams; 1895, Rev. R. S. Foster; 1895, Rev. J. Tanner; 1895, Rev. Warner, Sr.; 1903, Rev. Warner, Jr.; 1910, Rev. Spanswick; 1910, Rev. Chas. A. Mack; 1910, Rev. Charles Johnson; 1916, Rev. Morgan; 1917, Rev. Warner, Jr.; 1917, Rev. Herman; 1922, Rev. Deigleman; 1924, Rev. John Miller; 1924, Rev. White; 1927, Rev. Joseph T. Ruston; 1930, Rev. James Kemmerer; 1932, Rev. D. D. Bouman; 1933, Rev. Blish; 1934, Supplies; 1935-39, Rev. MacConnell; 1939—Rev. J. R. Baker, D.D.

At the present time the Clarkson

Church is enjoying one of the most prosperous periods in its economic and Spiritual history under the part time leadership of the Rev. J. Ray Baker, D.D., Murray, N. Y., who is engaged during the week as Manufacturers Representative, Commercial Salesman, and Territory Service man, Representing Commercial Feeds, manufactured by Allied Mills, Inc.

Mr. Baker is well known in the township of Clarkson to the farmers and feeders. This splendid arrangement makes it possible for the Clarkson Church to make extensive repairs and remodelings long since felt necessary, also redecorations, replacements and above ALL to save the 115 year old Belfry and Steeple as one of the old Pioneer land marks of the Old Ridge Trail stage line between Canandaigua in the Bristol Hills of the famous Finger Lakes region and Niagara Falls of World Fame.

The church organizations are: Christian Endeavor Society, The Ladies' Guild, during the 40 years this organization has served the church, Mrs. Minnie D. Clark has been president for more than 25 years. The Patterson Class named in honor of the memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Patterson and Crusaders Boys Class. During the past year an expenditure of approximately \$500.00 has been made redecorating the interior by the Friendly Circle, Patterson Class and Ladies' Guild. Honorable Mention for church maintenance is given the Friendly Circle and the Men's Brotherhood, both local organizations.

**BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE for  
SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT and CIVIC ENRICHMENT**

Rev. J. R. Baker, Chairman  
Kendrick J. Smith, Finance Director and campaign fund treasurer  
H. E. MacArthur, and Gifford Morgan, Advisors  
Mrs. Harold Clark, Church Treasurer  
Mrs. Morris Thompson, Church Secretary  
E. M. Blossom, P. A. Blossom and Norman Fortune, Publicity  
Mrs. Harry R. Aldrich, Photography

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Harold Clark, Francis Petrie, Frank Thompson, Morris Thompson, Spencer Blodgett, Ernest Fowler, Edward Dowden, Chester Thompson, Edward Rowell, Henry Thompson, Charles Doty, Frank Dowden, John Denham, George Rudman, George E. Edmunds, Roswell S. Steele, Leon Zastrow, Lloyd H. Butterfield, George H. Rayburn, Harold Rudman, Dennis W. O'Brien, Gifford Lawton, George Bennett, Carl H. Nellis, George Strussenberg, Mrs. Minnie Clark, Mrs. Frank Hare, Mrs. George Rudman, Mrs. Spencer Blodgett, Mrs. George Crisp, Mrs. Chester Thompson, Mrs. Roy Fetter, Mrs. John Denham, Mrs. Anna Stetcher, Mary A. Delehanty, Mrs. Oscar Johnson, Harris Stetcher and Mrs. Gilbert Devendorf.

**PRESENT TRUSTEES**



Harold Clark, Francis Petrie, Chester Thompson, Morris Thompson, and Spencer Blodgett.

**PRESENT DEACONS and DEACONESSES**

Mrs. John Stetcher, Mrs. Spencer Blodgett, Frank Thompson, Spencer Blodgett, and Mrs. Minnie Clark.

**OFFICERS**

Mrs. Morris Thompson, Church Clerk  
Mrs. Harold Clark, Treasurer  
Charles Doty, Sunday School Superintendent  
George Bennett, President of C. E. Society

**REV. J. R. BAKER**  
The Present Pastor



## Its Memories Span 124 Years



Stagecoaches rattled past Clarkson Community Church, oldest edifice between Canandaigua and Niagara Falls, when it opened its doors in 1816. Members now are seeking funds to restore the building, closed because it was deemed unsafe.

## Clarkson Drive Seeks \$1,200 Fund To Reopen Pioneer Church Edifice

The oldest church between Canandaigua and Niagara Falls may be nothing but a memory in the near future.

Unless funds are obtained to enable members of the Clarkson Community Church to make necessary repairs, the building, closed because it has been ruled unsafe for use, may have to be abandoned.

Last week a committee of church members met to inaugurate a drive for \$1,200 to recondition and retain not only a landmark, but the town of Clarkson's only place of public worship.

Built in 1816 at a cost of \$3,500, the picturesque little white church, shaded by maple trees, has been repaired from time to time, but in recent years the structure has become weakened and deemed unsafe. The building was used as a landmark by the Old Ridge Trail Stage Line which operated between Niagara Falls and Canandaigua, and the church bell, cast in 1846, was often tolled by the sexton to announce deaths as well as rung for church services in the settlement.

Of the \$1,200 required, all will be spent reconditioning the building. Last year various church organizations expended approximately \$500 redecorating the interior.

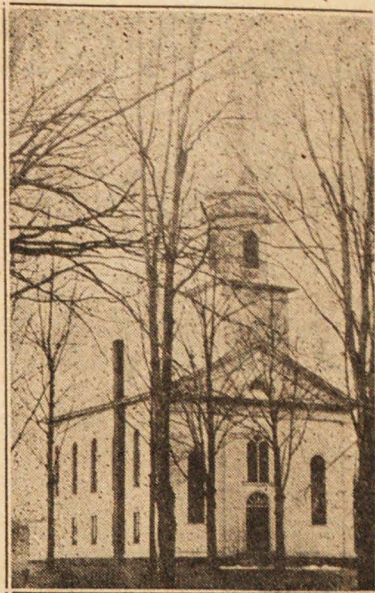
The Rev. J. R. Baker, pastor, is

chairman of the drive committee. Mrs. Morris Thompson is secretary. Gifford Morgan and Harry E. MacArthur are advisors, and Kendrick J. Smith is finance director.

Members of the general committee are Mrs. Harold Clark, Francis Petrie, Spencer Blodgett, Ernest Fowler, Chester Thompson, Frank Thompson, Edward Dowden, Edward Rowell, Henry Thompson, Frank Dowden, John Denham, George Rudman, George Edmunds, R. E. Steele, Leon Zastrow, Lloyd Butterfield, George Rayburn, Harold Rudman, Dennis O'Brien, Gifford Lawton, George Bennett, Carl Nellis, George Strassenburg, Harris Stetcher, Mrs. Minnie Clark, Mrs. Frank Hare, Mrs. George Rudman, Mrs. Spencer Blodgett, Mrs. Chester Thompson, Mrs. Roy Fetter, Mrs. John Denham, Mrs. Anna Stetcher, Miss Mary E. Delehanty, Mrs. Oscar Johnson, Mrs. George Smith and Mrs. Harry Aldrich.



# Restoration of Clarkson Church



The Committee who are sponsoring the restoration of the historic old Church on the Ridge Road at Clarkson are much encouraged in the response to their appeal for funds for that purpose.

Pledges to the amount of nearly \$1,400 have been received of which \$800 has been paid in cash to date.

It is felt, however, that a budget of \$2,000 should be established to achieve an enduring work of repair, and the Committee, therefore, are asking any and all who are interested in preserving this beautiful old landmark and who are willing to contribute any amount, large or small, to communicate with Mr. Kendrick J. Smith, Custodian of Funds, at the Lincoln-Alliance Bank and Trust Company, Brockport, N. Y. or any of the following Committee

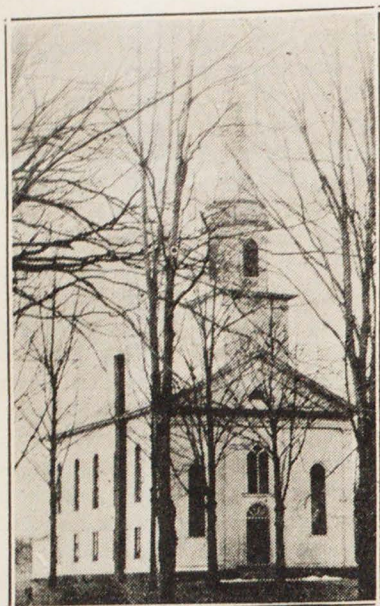
R. Armer  
Geo. Bennett  
Lloyd Butterfield  
B. Clark  
Mrs. M. D. Clark  
Harold Clark  
G. H. Cotter  
Mrs. M. Delhanty  
E. Denham  
J. Denham  
Mrs. H. Devendorf  
Chas. Doty  
E. Dowden  
T. A. Duryea  
Geo. Edmunds  
Mrs. Roy Fetter  
E. C. Fowler  
Mrs. F. Haire  
C. O. Johnson  
Gifford Lawton  
Allen Lewis

Mrs. Allen Lewis  
Miss E. Lewis  
H. E. MacArthur  
Gifford Morgan  
C. Nellis  
D. W. O'Brien  
Francis Petrie  
George Rayburn  
D. C. Redman  
C. A. Rounds  
Mrs. C. A. Rounds  
E. T. Rowell  
George Rudman  
Mrs. Geo. Rudman  
Harold Rudman  
Mrs. A. Stecker  
R. S. Steele  
C. Thompson  
F. P. Thompson  
Henry Thompson  
Leon Zastrow



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## CLARKSON CHURCH TO HOLD VICTORY DINNER, MONDAY

### Committee Reports Nearly \$1400 Raised

#### Mrs. Stemp Is Chairman Of Dinner Committee

The Victory Dinner for the Building Preservation Committee of the Clarkson Congregational church will be held in the Church Parlors, Monday.

All members of the Committee and all contributors to the fund are requested to be present. A silver offering will be taken to cover the cost of the dinner.

It is important that those, planning to attend, notify Mrs. Lydia Stemp of Clarkson not later than Oct. 5. Her phone number is Brockport 57-M.

Mrs. Stemp is chairman of the Dinner Committee and is being assisted by Mrs. Frank Petrie, Mrs. Everett Kenyon, Mrs. Frank Thompson and Miss Edith Lewis.

The Dining Room Committee consists of Mrs. George Rudman, Mrs. Gilbert Devendorf, Mrs. Guy Cooley and Mrs. Harry Giblin. The following young people will wait on table: Betty Rudman, Sue Redman, Mary Beth Devendorf, Virginia Clark, Dorothy Earley, Helen Black, Robert Thompson and Everett Kenyon, Jr.

Monday evening the Building Committee met and reported that nearly \$1400.00 has been raised and that it is expected that the final quota will be reached by next week.